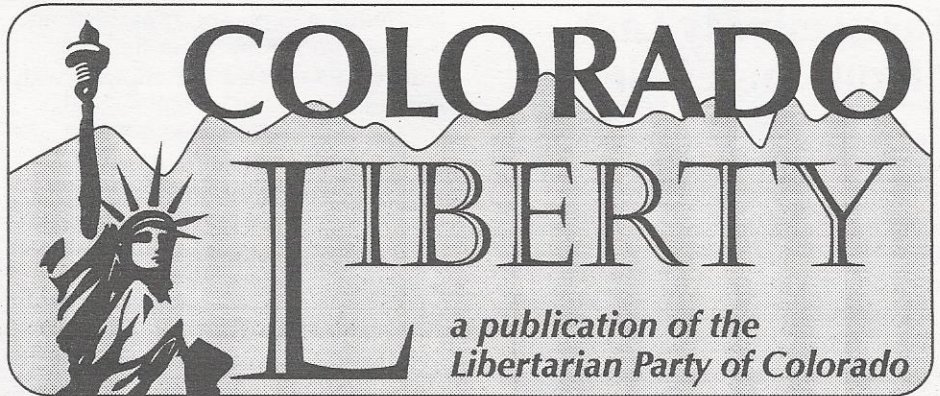


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Volume XIX, Number 4
<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

April, 1998

Libertarian Party strongly condemns new restrictions in Glendale

Glendale, CO – The Libertarian Party today strongly criticized and condemned the Glendale City Council's passage of new rules, regulations, requirements, and restrictions aimed specifically at forcing the closure of the city's adult entertainment businesses.

"These new measures are extreme and oppressive. They are a blatant attempt to close these popular establishments through government micromanagement," said Sandra Johnson, chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Libertarian Party members in Glendale are very active in the Glendale Tea Party association, which is leading the opposition to the new regulations.

"Despite the testimony of dozens of opponents, city council approved these new ordinances by a unanimous 6-0 vote. Not one city council person had the guts to honor the liberties of their constituents over their own personal agendas," said Johnson.

"These night clubs have been exemplary members of the Glendale community," added Johnson. "At Tuesday's city council meeting, witness after expert witness testified that these strip clubs do **NOT** foster or foment crime of **ANY** kind: not prostitution, not sexual harassment, not drug abuse, not public inebriation, not anything. Yet the city council used these false claims to rationalize their actions."

"Glendale is willing to close several successful businesses, put hundreds of employees out of work, and lose hundreds of thousands of tax dollars, all in the name of controlling the peaceful, voluntary behavior of its citizens. Is this the City of Glendale or the People's Republic of Glendale?" quipped Johnson.

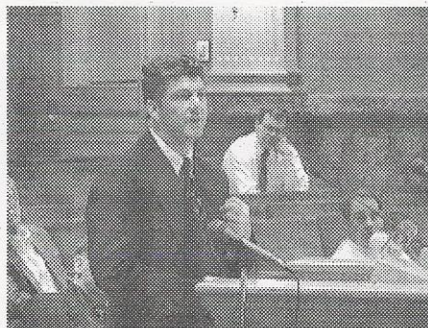
"This is a fundamental question of whether we still live in a 'free country.' Do these city mothers and fathers really think they know what's best for the hundreds of employees and hundreds of thousands of annual patrons of these popular establishments?" asked Johnson. "The Libertarian Party says: **NOT!**"

Libertarians Testify Against Bowlen Bill

by Earl Allen

The House Affairs Committee heard arguments for and against Senate Bill 171 on Monday, March 16. Judd Ptak, Ken Kirkmeyer and Earl Allen all testified against its passage.

Ken Kirkmeyer (pictured below) told the Representatives that only 1% of most voters' entertainment dollar is spent on professional sports, and asked them to vote no on SB 171.



Minor Political Party Bill Passes Senate 28-5

by Judd Ptak

Thanks to all the Libertarians who called their Senators, HB-98-1110, the Minor Political Party bill, passed 3rd Reading before the Colorado State Senate with no further amendments. At 2nd reading the Senate amended the bill a little, eliminating the option to qualify as a "Minor Political Party" by petitioning 10 or more candidates individually, and also giving us a choice of either having a candidate for any statewide office receive at least 1% of the vote cast, or having 1,000 registered voters to retain minor party status, once achieved.

So the bill now goes back to the House of Representatives for acceptance of the Senate amendments.

For those not familiar with the history of this bill, when it was originally introduced in 1997, there was only one way to qualify as a Minor Political Party — to circulate a statewide petition with 10,000 valid signatures. That option remains. This year's bill adds two other choices: having a statewide candidate receive at least 5% of the vote, or having 1,000 registered voters.

All Colorado Libertarians should call and write their State Representatives and urge them to accept the Senate amendments and pass the amended bill on to Governor Romer for his signature.

Judd Ptak is Legislative Director of the Libertarian Party of Colorado.

Farewell: My Last "From the Chair"

I am not running for State Chair at our April 24-26 Convention. Three years of commuting 200 miles to Denver every month is quite enough for me! It has been fun and challenging as well as greatly rewarding.

I am truly pleased with what we have accomplished working well together as a Board and with vast amounts of help from many volunteers. Thank you to all who have helped make incredible things happen during the past year!

Now is the time for new ideas, new skills and new volunteers to step forward so that we grow ever more effective and achieve more freedom in our lifetimes.

I encourage each of you who can give some of your time to consider running for a Board position. With competition for every Board of Directors position we will create a sharper focus for where we want this Party to go.

*Now is the time
for new ideas,
new skills and new
volunteers to step
forward*

Let's get many libertarian candidates on the ballot!

When Governor Romer signs HB-98-1110 (the Minor Political Party bill) *which* public office will you run for? The effort required ranges from simply filling out the paperwork to a full-fledged campaign.

You decide how much time you will give it. Just remember, there will be no more collecting signatures to get on the ballot. So let's get as many candidates as we can!

We will provide some help for each candidate. We are considering help with petition signatures (if needed); professional yard signs,

brochures, and photographs; walking lists; and help from our in-house expert David Bryant in complying with Amendment 15.

HB-98-1110 has passed 3rd reading in the Senate, so I have very high hopes that it will become law, making it possible for all our Libertarian candidates to make the ballot without petitioning.

Recent accomplishments

There are so many activists doing wonderful things that it's hard to keep track of all they're doing. If I missed something, I apologize. Please let me know so I can pass your activity along to the folks at the April Convention.

- Judd Ptak is our dynamo at the State Capitol: he is often there testifying on bills, sending letters to encourage committee members to vote the Libertarian way, making critical calls at the precise time, etc. He has been on top of our most critical Minor Political Party Bill (HB-98-1110), the bill that attacks our petition rights (HCR-1004), the "Bowlen Bowl Bill" (aka the Stadium Bill), and many others.
- Key Libertarians are supporting the Glendale Tea Party. This is getting a lot of media coverage, both radio and print. If they win there should be a terrific celebration on the April 7 election night.
- BetteRose Smith, Michele Bethke and others are busy preparing the best convention the LP of Colorado has ever had! Look for a terrific brochure in your mailbox, if it hasn't already arrived, with all the details, as well as the information in the center of this Colorado Liberty.

Party Time!!!

Let's celebrate our accomplishments of the past year by getting together on April 3, 1998 at 7:00pm at the Grizzly Rose. No politicking, just a time for everyone to have fun and say "thanks" to this year's board and activists. Everyone is invited!

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson, Chair, LPCO

P.S. There are some very interesting projects just waiting in the wings for the right volunteer. One of them involves a speaking engagement by Marshall Fritz. Call me if you're interested.

Denver Potlucks Provide Great Food and Fellowship

By David Aitken

Eight Denver Libertarians enjoyed a great meal at the March potluck with a casserole from Bennett Rutledge and pasta salad from Robin Sharp. Our April potluck will be on Saturday, April 11, 7pm, at the home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, 303-831-4334. All libertarians are invited.

Our application to be in the People's Fair was submitted on time. Thanks to all who contributed a few dollars to make it happen. The People's Fair is our primary outreach event of the year and gives us the opportunity to talk to more than 300,000 people. It is held on the first weekend of June at Denver's Civic Center Park between the State Capitol and the Denver City and County building.

Denver candidates for the November ballot will be announced at the state convention. So far we'll have five state representative candidates and one congressional candidate.

Our Saturday breakfast group continues to be popular as 8-10 people enjoy good food and conversation at LePeep, Colorado Boulevard and Mexico, at 8am every week. Call David Aitken, 303-831-4334 for details.

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Thomas Watson, chairman of
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Calendar

April, 1998

- 4/1 - Wed - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00, call for directions.
- 4/2 - Thu. - Libertarian Community of Jefferson County - 1st Thursday - 6:00pm - Lakewood Library, 10200 W. 20th. Ave., Lakewood, call Tom Goonan, (303) 278-1698
- 4/4 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 4/7 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 4/8 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 4/11 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 4/11 - Sat - Denver Potluck Supper - 2nd Friday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks, plates, and utensils will be provided. If you don't have any ideas for what to bring, check the deli in your local supermarket.
- 4/14 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 4/18 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 4/20 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 4/21 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 4/24-26 - F/S - LPCO State Convention - Sheraton Denver West

Hotel, 360 Union Blvd. Speakers: David Nolan, founder of our party; Gene Burns, national talk show host; Bumper Hornberger, Future of Freedom Foundation President and keynote speaker at 1996 National convention; Richard Boddie, US Senate candidate in California and professional motivational speaker; Larry Hoffenberg, LPCO Public Information Director; and Michael Cloud, professional speaker, speech writer, and author of "The Essence of Political Persuasion" tapes.

- 4/28 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.

June, 1998

- 6/6-6/7 - S/S - People's Fair - Denver's Civic Center Park - 10am to 7pm. Our premier outreach event of the year has the opportunity to reach 300,000 people. You'll have the chance to meet all sorts of people, see all sorts of exhibits and booths, do lots of people watching, and have loads of fun. Volunteer now! Call David Aitken 303-831-4334.

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Kudos

- Deron Dilger for creating and managing our new Libertarian E-mail list! It has made a terrific difference in getting legislative information out to our members in a very timely fashion. It may be one of the reasons why HB-1110 has come so far!
- David Aitken for writing an Initiative to amend the Colorado Constitution which will limit the number of bills creating new laws that a legislator can submit, (with **no** limit on bills that repeal existing laws); and which will limit the number of words allowed in the Statutes to that which exists at the end of this year. He has submitted it to the legislative council for review, and got a very lengthy list of questions to be answered.
- All the folks who called their State Senators urging them to vote for

HB-98-1110 should pat themselves on the back for a job well done. All that is left is for the House to pass the bill intact back to Governor Romer for his signature, so call your Representative and let them know that you'd like them to accept the Senate amendments and pass the bill on to the Governor.

Join Our Hot List!

Would you like to make a BIG impact on the Legislature? Join the Libertarian e-mail list to stay on top of all the action. Please send your e-mail address to DeronD@netlords.com and ask to be added to the Libertarian hot list.

Colorado Liberty

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Colophon:

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The John Voss Story: Government Out Of Control

by John Voss

Chapter Two — History and Purpose of Our Association

The judge who sentenced me to two years of prison did briefly explain why he felt our actions constituted obstruction of justice. He noted that more than one grand jury had issued subpoenas for the names and addresses and records of all financial transactions of all of the members of our association. He also noted that Federal District Court Judge Finesilver had had to hold probable cause hearings and issue orders to the association to comply with the subpoenas. Later Judge Finesilver was required to hold an additional hearing to impose a fine on the association for non-compliance. He also referenced the testimony of an investigating IRS agent who had stated that he and other agents had been forced to obtain some 15,000 bank records and then allegedly expend 4,000 man-hours over a three-year period analyzing them and trying to identify the members involved. Had we "cooperated" in the first place, he said, some of this expenditure of money and resources could have been avoided. He didn't mention that our rights to due process entitled us to each step we took in the legal process, nor that in this process the IRS had still failed to demonstrate "probable cause"—legal justification for seeking the records.

Admittedly, we had done more than drag our feet about complying with the subpoenas; we had dug in our heels. We were relying first of all on an appellate decision that had been issued eleven years earlier by the federal judges of the Tenth Circuit. They had ruled that without adequate probable cause to believe that a particular member had engaged in criminal activity, information (including bank records) relating to the member's affiliation with our association was "off-limits." They ruled that the anonymity of all members was protected by the First Amendment. See *In re First National Bank of Englewood, Colorado*, 701 F.2d 115 (10th Cir. 1983). But I need to back

up a bit before 1983 even, to explain why we had historically been so "uncooperative," or, more accurately, why we so doggedly pursued every avenue of due process to which we were entitled, instead of just blindly relinquishing our rights to privacy.

The founder of our association, the National Commodity and Barter Association, or NCBA, was John Grandbouche. In the 1970s John was the owner of two small businesses in Denver, a restaurant and a fertilizer and commercial lawn care enterprise. Everyone whom John hired worked as an independent contractor. The IRS told John that they viewed his workers as employees, not contractors, and demanded that he withhold federal tax and social security amounts from what he paid them. He refused, so IRS agents entered his restaurant one day, shouldered the cashier to one side and helped themselves to the contents of his cash register. John threw them out and later filed a lawsuit to recover the small amount of money one of them succeeded in taking. Because he couldn't afford an attorney, he prosecuted his lawsuit himself. He incorporated what he learned in this courtroom experience into the evening adult classes he conducted at a Denver high school. Topics already included U.S. history, the Constitution, our limitless paper



money system, and the credit and fractional reserve banking practices employed by the Federal Reserve. Much of the educational materials came from the John Birch Society. John now added the income tax, practices and procedures of the IRS and the basics of legal briefs and presentations. His classes were well attended (100 to 300 people) and many of the attendees saw a political champion in John, and encouraged him to run for public office.

John and one of his business partners campaigned for the offices of

Lt. Governor and Governor, respectively, in 1978. Their platform of tax and money reform and a return to state's rights was well received. They found particular favor with small independent businessmen and farmers, but in total the support was not enough to unseat the incumbents. After the election however, they continued to receive letters from around the state. John soon decided to publish a newsletter in order to respond and to begin soliciting support for another try at the governor's office four years later.

I met John in January of 1978, at a political rally. His message appealed to me. I had just come from a confrontation with the IRS while running a real estate business. Like John, I also had to take on the IRS on my own, and his ideas for tax reform sounded very appropriate. Both my wife Sharon and I felt moved to support John in his campaign. When he later started his newsletter, we all worked several hours around our kitchen table to format and produce the first issue.

John viewed the progressive income tax as more un-American than American. He pointed out that "a heavy, progressive income tax" had been proposed by Karl Marx as the second plank of the communist party platform over 100 years earlier. He compared the IRS' power to assess, lien, and seize with the collection powers in communist countries. As contrasted with the socialized economics of Europe, our constitution had been written to protect the fruits of a man's industry, not to allow the government to take more just because a person made more, effectively punishing him for this productivity. The constitution established the Federal government's responsibility to provide protection of our nation's shores for everyone's equal benefit, and to provide post offices and post roads, etc. Since no one was to get more protection or roads than anyone else, any tax imposed had to be uniform or equally divided among all. I hadn't heard such sensible logic since my junior high school civics class. His newsletter articles explained the need to challenge, in the courts, all unlawful liens and seizures by the IRS, and to work for legislative reform of the income tax laws.

John also understood the nature of our monetary system. The paper money being put into circulation by

the federal government and the Federal Reserve system of banks was no longer backed with gold as it had been initially. And the fractional reserve banking system allowed the Fed to use every dollar deposited in an account as an excuse to inflate the money and credit available at any time, by as much as 10 to 15 times. In the newsletter, initially called *Barter Bits*, John explained how this system was eroding everyone's standard of living and also how grassroots Americans could reform such a system by simply boycotting it, refusing to use bank accounts, paper money and credit. He advocated a return to bartering directly with each other for the goods and services they needed. If direct barter wasn't practical in a situation, John explained how folks could use an honest medium of exchange in lieu of paper money — in other words, a medium which had intrinsic worth, such as silver and gold coin.

As the newsletter circulation grew, John was invited to conduct his constitutional basics classes in towns other than Denver, and in the surrounding states. The classes themselves were soon being replicated by others throughout the nation. Within two years, there was enough support to host annual conventions in Denver. Each year, these conventions were attended by 250-350 subscribers from twenty to thirty states.

To eschew the use of personal bank accounts and to stimulate bartering and encourage the use of "honest money," — that is, silver and gold coin — John began what he called a warehouse exchange service in Denver. The association now had its name, the National Commodity and Barter Association, or NCBA. The Denver warehouse exchange service was referred to as the National Commodity Exchange, or NCE. At the NCE, subscribers could bring in or mail in their paper money or payroll check, and purchase silver and gold coin. The coin could be taken home with them, or left on deposit in order to have it available for transfer to another's account as needed, when goods or services were to be paid for. Unlike commercial bankers, the warehouse exchange managers were simply members of the association who acted as agents for other members. These managers purchased silver or gold coins for others, and paid their

bills if directed to do so. Unlike commercial bankers, they did not arrange loans and collect interest, pay interest on silver or gold held on deposit, or engage in fractional reserve practices. Warehouse exchange managers maintained at least one bank account, however, so they could cash members' checks.

Another strong contrast to conventional banking, and perhaps the aspect of NCE that inadvertently became one of the strongest attractions to the Association's advocacy of precious metals ownership, was that the warehouse exchange managers scrupulously guarded the privacy of each transaction. Numbered accounts were established for each member, for the sake of privacy. When a member sent an instruction to the exchange, he did so on the last warehouse receipt form that the exchange manager had sent to him. His account number was the only identification on the instruction. The account manager matched the member's last receipt form with the copy on file with the same number, then purchased gold or silver for the member or otherwise executed his instructions. The instructions and coin were then returned to the address indicated on the instruction form and a copy of the latest transaction receipt placed in the member's numbered file, after discarding the earlier receipt. Besides not wanting the IRS to know who they were or where they lived in order to minimize the possibility of harassment, members who purchased silver and gold coin through the NCE and took possession of it didn't care to have any branch of government know of it. They were familiar with the historical fact that many Americans had had their gold possessions confiscated by the government in the 1930s. After President Franklin Roosevelt had made possession of gold illegal by executive proclamation on May 1, 1933, Treasury agents pounded on the doors of the residences of citizens whose bank records revealed they had purchased and taken home gold. Its surrender was demanded under threat of a \$10,000 fine and up to a year's imprisonment. Forty years later, ownership of gold was once again declared legal for American citizens, thanks largely to the persistent efforts of one Jim Blanchard, who operates a successful coin investment firm today. Those

who wanted to own gold and silver coin wanted to own it as privately as possible and were appreciative of the steps the NCE managers took to safeguard their privacy in order to avoid a repeat of the 1930s confiscation/victimization by their government.

By 1985, there were in excess of fifty NCBA affiliated warehouse exchanges scattered throughout the nation — almost one in every state of the union — to assist those who wished to acquire precious metals. As was noted in NCBA literature, those who joined NCBA and exchanged their paper currency for gold made a political statement of preference with each purchase.

Chapter 3 of the John Voss story will continue in next month's Liberty.

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Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger

Attorney, Co-founder and Author of the "Future of Freedom Foundation" books



Richard Boddie

Former US Senate candidate, Olympic decathlon athlete and professional motivational speaker

Larry Hoffenberg

Widely published opinions author, technical writer and Colorado's own press release champion



Michael Cloud

Professional speaker, speech writer and author of "The Essence of Political Persuasion" tapes



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Writing effective letters to the editor.

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How hermits can make a big impact.

IS THERE SEX AFTER ACTIVISM?

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WHAT IS THE PRICE OF FREE SPEECH?

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OR

VICTORY 2000's

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Saturday April 25

10:00AM

Keynote Speaker

12:00PM

Awards Luncheon

6:00PM

Cocktail Party

Banquet and Dance

Sunday April 26

10:00AM

Business Meeting

11:00AM

Elections

2:00PM

Guest Speaker

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Hon. Bonnie Flickinger

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The Bipartisan Drug Warp

by Sheldon Richman

President Clinton promised recently to cut drug use by 50 percent over the next 10 years with the more than \$17 billion — nearly a 7 percent increase — he's asked from Congress. Predictably, Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich said the effort isn't enough.

Those who hate partisan bickering might take comfort that each party has tried to best the other in making absurd proposals about ending drug use. But those who understand the real nature of the drug war take no comfort at all. Bipartisan foolishness is something less than inspiring.

Clinton wants to spend those billions on the border patrol, child and prisoner education, medical research, the Drug Enforcement Administration, drug testing, and intervention south of the border and in the Caribbean. That will be \$17 billion more down the bottomless money pit, right behind many previous billions wasted throughout this sordid war on drugs.

What comes from the Republican majority? More nonsense. Gingrich criticized Clinton for allowing drug use to rise 70 percent since the president took office. He scoffed that the War between the States was won in just four years. "This president would have us believe that with all of the resources, ingenuity, dedication and passion of the American people, we can't even get halfway to victory in the war on drugs until the year 2007," Gingrich said.

The GOP wants to use the taxpay-

ers money to "help" communities and parents fight drug use, provide so-called market incentives to employers to keep drugs out of the workplace, and set up a national antidrug-information clearinghouse. That's the "small government" party for you.

Politicians never get sillier than when they talk about drugs. All such noise about ending drug use is patently ridiculous. The amount of drug use has little to do with anything the government does. In fact, if a government crackdown causes the price and profits to rise, more people will be attracted to the drug trade. People have their own reasons for taking drugs. If they don't want them, it doesn't matter how accessible drugs are. On the other hand, if people do want drugs, they will go to great lengths to get them. Government is quite irrelevant.

Americans, of all people, should be deeply suspicious of this war on drugs — which, as social critic Thomas Szasz points out, is actually a war on people using and selling culturally cursed substances such as cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Users of alcohol, for example, do not get the same rough treatment.

In fighting that war, the government shows its ugliest face: it confiscates cars, cash, and homes from people not even charged with crimes; entraps citizens; and uses informers to spy on them. As a direct result of its war, the police and courts are corrupted, the cities are thrown into bedlam, and children are enticed by black-market prices into the trade, where sampling the merchandise is almost assured.

In other words, the war has brought about evils that never could

be matched by drug use alone. Before 1917 there were no laws against drugs — and there was no drug problem. The drug warriors will say that it's a different world now. Yes it is — and the drug laws are partly responsible for that.

Are we to do nothing about drugs? It depends on the "we." The government should do nothing but deal with people who use physical force against other people. Being under the influence of drugs would be no excuse. The rest of us should be free to live the peaceful lives we wish to lead. That would include teaching our children self-responsibility and ambitiousness, two things typically lacking in people who wreck their lives with drugs. Property owners should be free to exclude — discriminate against — drug users and sellers. Fully private communities are likely to have far less of a drug problem than "public" communities.

Beyond that, it is time we stopped demonizing drugs. They are inanimate substances. They do not leap out of the shadows into our bloodstreams. People choose to take drugs; and people who value their lives do not waste them on drugs or anything else. Government, which daily treats human beings callously, is precisely the wrong institution to entrust with teaching anyone the value of life.

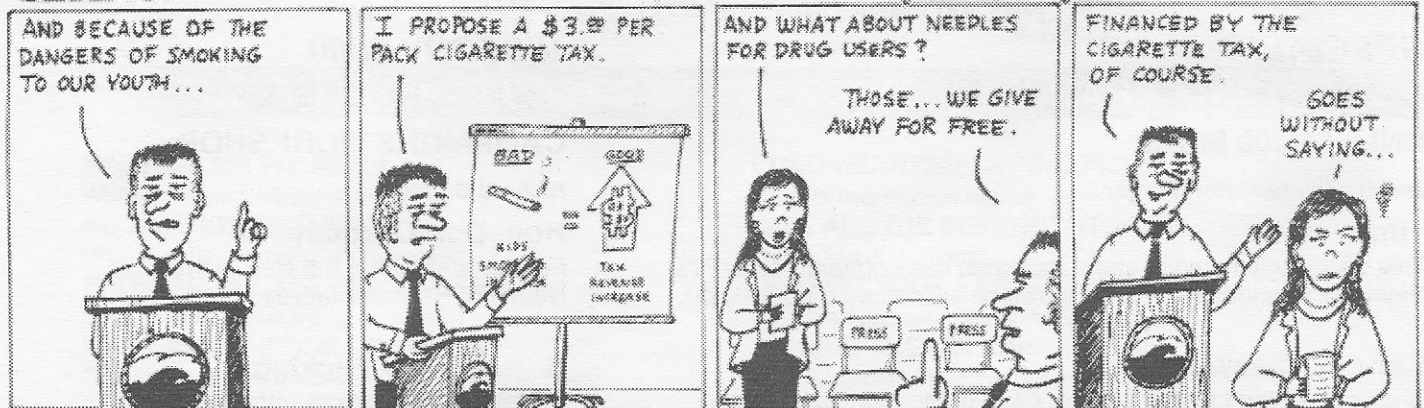
In the name of life and decency, let's end the war on drug users forthwith.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., and editor of The Freeman magazine.

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It's Tea Party Time!

Income Taxes are Revolting.
Why aren't you?

Americans, Rise To Your Feet!
Support Americans for Constitutional Action and Congress in abolishing the IRS!

Come to our Tea Party. Join us 9:00 AM — 12:30 PM on Saturday, April 18, 1998 at the National Western Stadium Arena on I-70 & Brighton Blvd. in Denver.

Top notch guests, State and National leaders, and people with their pulse on the times will all be there.

There will be great music and entertainment and some super door prizes.

Be a part of the largest tax reform rally in America!

This is the first of many planned "Tea Parties Across America."

First, Colorado's Representative Dan Schaefer introduced H.R. 2001 on April 15th, 1997 to abolish the IRS and replace the income tax with a National Sales Tax. Then, Representative Sam Johnson introduced his bill to repeal the 16th Amendment. And Congressman Largent jumped on the band wagon with his bill to sunset the IRS code by the year 2001. Wow! This year promises to see some of the hottest tax reform debates ever experienced in the history of this nation.

As you can see, we are making great strides towards abolishing the IRS! Do you know how exciting

this is? We are about to dump the IRS! Tax Slaves around this nation will be free!

With Congressman Roth's committee currently investigating IRS abuse and criminal activity, we are finally about to reach one of our goals — to rid this nation of the oppressive and tyrannical IRS!

To celebrate and to impress on Congress our growing strength,

chairperson of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, has committed to tearing out the income tax by its roots before he leaves office.

Let's help him accomplish his goal!

And bring your friends. We expect 5000+ attendees.

Be there for this grand and glorious party. Be a part of history!

Come and celebrate with us the beginning of the end of the IRS!

This is an important event and promises to be lots of fun!

Order your tickets for the Denver Tea(-ed off) Party now by calling 303-313-2027 and ask for the Hans Helmuth Libertarian Special!

Or you

may email your order to: tickets@taxteaparty.com and be sure to mention the Hans Helmuth Libertarian Special when you email.

To learn more about Tea(-ed off) Parties call: 303-313-2027 or visit <http://www.taxteaparty.com> and check out the Tea(-ed Off) Party program.

We welcome volunteers, who are always wanted, needed, and very much appreciated.

Visit the Tea(-ed Off) Party web page: <http://www.taxteaparty.com> and we'll see you at the National Western Stadium Arena on April 18th!



"I feel sorry for a person with such a suspicious nature!"

your presence is needed at our Tea(-ed off) Party, April 18th at the National Western Stadium Arena, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

Representative Dan Schaefer will be on hand to speak with us about his landmark legislation. David Keaton, formerly with the National Tax Payers Union, will also speak.

As an added bonus, nationally recognized author and tax consultant, Dan Pilla, Jr. (who testified before congress on IRS abuse) will not only speak in the morning, but will give a **free** tax seminar in the afternoon.

Rep. Bill Archer (R-Texas),

The Essence of Liberty

by David F. Nolan

As a founder of the Libertarian Party and Editor-in-Chief of *California Liberty*, I am often asked how to tell if someone is "really" a libertarian.

There are probably as many different definitions of the word "libertarian" as there are people who claim the label. These range from overly broad ("anyone who calls himself a libertarian is one") to impossibly doctrinaire ("only those who agree with every word in the party platform are truly anointed"). My own definition is that in order to be considered a libertarian, at least in the political context, an individual must adhere without compromise to five key points.

Ideally, of course, we'd all be in agreement on everything.

But we're not, and probably never will be. Debate is likely to continue indefinitely on such matters as abortion, foreign policy, and whether, when and how various government programs can be discontinued or privatized. But as far as I'm concerned, if someone is sound on these five points, he is *de facto* a libertarian; if he fails on even one of the five, he isn't.

What, then, are the "indispensable five" points of no compromise?

1. You Own Yourself

First and foremost, libertarians believe in the principle of self-ownership. You own your own body and mind; no external power has the right to force you into the service of "society" or "mankind" or any other individual or group for any purpose, however noble. Slavery is wrong, period. Because you own yourself, you are responsible for your own well-being. Others are not obligated to feed you, clothe you, or provide you with health care. Most of us choose to help one another voluntarily, for a variety of reasons — and that's as it should be — but "forced compassion" is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

2. The Right to Self-Defense

Self-ownership implies the right to self-defense.

Libertarians yield to no one in their support for our right as individuals to keep and bear arms. We only wish that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution said "The right to self-defense being inalienable..." instead of that stuff about a "well-regulated militia". Anyone who thinks that *any* government has the right to disarm its citizens is **NOT** a libertarian!

3. No "Criminal Possession" Laws

In fact, libertarians believe that individuals have the right to own and use anything — gold, guns, marijuana, sexually explicit material — so long as they do not harm others through force or the threat of force. Laws criminalizing the simple possession of anything are tailor-made for police states. It is all too easy to plant a forbidden substance in someone's home, car or pocket. Libertarians are as tough on real crime as anyone. But criminal possession laws are an affront to liberty, whatever the rhetoric used to defend them.

4. No Taxes on Productivity

In an ideal world, there would be no taxation. All services would be paid for on an as-used basis. But in a less-than-ideal world, some services will be force-financed for the foreseeable future. However, not all taxes are equally deleterious, and the worst form of taxation is a tax on productivity — that is, an

"income" tax — and no libertarian supports this type of taxation.

What kind of taxation is least harmful? This is a topic still open for debate. My own preference is for a single tax on land. Is this "the" libertarian position on taxes? No. But all libertarians oppose *any* form of income tax.

5. A Sound Money System

The fifth and final key test of anyone's claim to being a libertarian is their support for an honest money system — one in which the currency is backed by something of true value, like gold or silver. Fiat money — money with no backing, whose acceptance is mandated by the State — is simply legalized counterfeiting and is one of the keys to expanding government power.

The five points enumerated here are not a complete, comprehensive prescription for freedom, but they would take us most of the way. A government which cannot conscript, confiscate or counterfeit, and which imposes no criminal penalties for the mere possession and peaceful use of anything, is one that almost all libertarians would be comfortable with.

David F. Nolan founded the Libertarian Party in Westminster and Colorado Springs 26 years ago.

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If your area (or campus) doesn't have a local contact and you'd consider being one, please contact Outreach Director Dan Cochran. A local area can be anything that makes sense. It does not have to be a county.

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Thanks!

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Check one: ☐ \$1000 ☐ or \$100/month Life Benefactor ☐ **I am joining the LPUS monthly Liberty Pledge program in the amount indicated to the left. I will receive the *Liberty Pledge News* each month.**
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I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature _____ Date _____

What does the above pledge mean? We ask our members to disavow the *initiation* of force. This does not mean that you cannot defend yourself; you *do* have a right to defend your life, liberty, and property. It means that you cannot use the coercive power of government to forcibly achieve your personal, ethical, or religious goals. This commitment helps us maintain our principles and provides us with a measuring stick to determine if we have strayed from our common goal: a society where all relationships among persons are based on voluntary cooperation.

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